

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending with all claims being rejected. By this Amendment, claims 21 and 22 are amended to remove minor informalities in order to clarify the claim language. The amendments to claims 21 and 22 are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as the amendments comply with a requirement of form and present the claims in better form for consideration on appeal. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in view of the aforementioned amendments and the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In response, the word “valve” in claim 21 is changed to “value” to correct for a minor typographical error. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action also rejects claims 1-5, 11-18, 20 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bowman-Amuah, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6, 289,382) in view of Hamilton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,889,6227); and rejects claims 6-10 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bowman-Amuah et al. in view of Rogers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,111).

In particular, Applicants assert that it would not have been obvious at the time of the invention to modify Bowman-Amuah using any of the aforementioned cited art, individually or in combination, to teach or suggest a method for accessing a Baan server that includes the steps of sending data from a Visual Basic program to an application function server (AFS) of the Baan server ...utilizing the AFS to communicate the data to at least one software object of the Baan server to generate at least one Baan session object, utilizing the Visual Basic program to communicate with the at least one Baan session object via the AFS and storing information in the

Baan server in response to the received data, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 17 and 18.

Bowman-Amuah discloses a system, method, and article of manufacture provided for delivering service via a globally addressable interface. A plurality of interfaces are provided with access allowed to a plurality of different sets of services from each of the interfaces. However, Bowman-Amuah is silent with regards to teaching sending data from a Visual Basic program to an application function server of the Baan server, utilizing the application function server (AFS) to communicate the data to at least one software object of the Baan server to generate at least one Baan session object, utilizing the Visual Basic program to communicate with the at least one Baan session object via the AFS and storing information in the Baan server in response to the received data, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 11 and 17, **an issue that the Office Action admits on Page 4.**

Hamilton discloses a system that enables a two-tier computer application to operate in a three-tier computer environment “without specific programming for the three tiered environment.” See, Abstract. As shown on Fig. 2, a client computer system 14 can include a client application (GUI) 104 residing over an OLE-DB (database) interface that uses bridge 112 to talk to application server 18. See, col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 9. However, Hamilton does not teach or suggest sending data from a Visual Basic program to an application function server of the Baan server, utilizing the application function server (AFS) to communicate the data to at least one software object of the Baan server to generate at least one Baan session object, utilizing the Visual Basic program to communicate with the at least one Baan session object via the AFS and storing information in the Baan server in response to the received data, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 11 and 17.

To the contrary, while Hamilton's application server 18 does contain a number of EJB objects 130, these objects are not generated in response to the communication of data to at least one software object of the application/Baan server. Additionally, the EJB objects 130 do not store information, but "develop and send queries to the database 150." See, col. 6, lines 26-27. That is, because the EJB Objects (the only software objects mentioned in application server 18 and specifically cited by the Office Action) are solely intended to "develop and send queries" and queries are designed to access pre-existing data in a database, the Hamilton device clearly does not store information in the application/Baan server in response to the received data. Thus, Hamilton does not provide for the deficiencies of Bowman-Amuah.

Rogers discloses a system and method for distributed computer automotive service equipment. See, Abstract. However, Rogers does not teach or suggest sending data from a Visual Basic program to an application function server of the Baan server, utilizing the application function server (AFS) to communicate the data to at least one software object of the Baan server to generate at least one Baan session object, utilizing the Visual Basic program to communicate with the at least one Baan session object via the AFS and storing information in the Baan server in response to the received data, nor does the Office Action assert such. Thus, Rogers does not provide for the deficiencies of Bowman-Amuah and Hamilton.

The Office Action has not established an appropriate *prima facie* case of obviousness. See, *MPEP* §2143. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, to modify the references or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art must teach all the claim limitations. *MPEP* §2143.

As mentioned above, the applied art of reference, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations as recited in the independent claims.

Further, there is no proper motivation as required under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). While the Office Action states on page 4 that “it would have been obvious for the purpose of illustrating an organization approach including all activities component, a credit/collections component, a billing component and a finance component as stated by Bowman-Amuah et al in fig. 47”, Applicants respectfully point out that neither Figure 47 nor the relevant text (starting at col. 155, line 62) show anything more than a workcell organization, which is apparently perfectly functional for its specified purpose without modification. Nowhere is there any language having the requisite specificity to suggest applying any portion of Hamilton’s teachings, much less the specific teachings at issue. While the Office Action also asserts that “Hamilton also provides motivation to combining by stating that the use of a three-tier environment using Visual Basic enables applications to be modified without having to substantially modify each client system”, Applicants respectfully point out that the systems referred to by Hamilton are web-based systems whereas the particular system of Bowman-Amuah’s Figure 47 (to which the Office Action makes immediate reference) is apparently not an Internet accessible systems.

Thus, independent claim 1, 11 and 17 are directed to patentable subject matter. . The dependent claims are directed to patentable subject matter by virtue of their dependency as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

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Patent

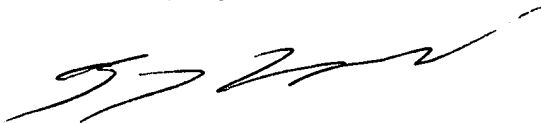
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

A check in the amount of \$100.00 for two new dependent claims fee is attached.

Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,
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